

Today is _____, _____ the _____. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about _____ when we return

The renegotiations for the North American Free Trade Agreement get underway on August 16th. Canada, Mexico, and the United States can sit down at a table to update the twenty-year-old agreement. Former Chief Agricultural Trade Negotiator Darci Vetter said the upcoming negotiations represent an opportunity for needed updates to the agreement...tape

Cut 1 _____ :39 _____ OC..."trade flows"

Vetter says the original NAFTA agreement is a good foundation to build upon for the three countries. She says agricultural trade is a big success story for NAFTA and doesn't need a lot of changes...tape

Cut 3 _____ :30 _____ OC..."retaliatory behavior"

WEEK ENDING: August 13, 2017

RELEASED: August 14, 2017

WEATHER

The weather last week was hot and dry week across California. The monsoon was not as active across the deserts. Rainfall was confined to the Sierras and northern mountains, with light showers dotting these areas every day Monday through Thursday. **Most areas remained dry or received less than a quarter inch of rain, but a stray thunderstorm on Thursday near I-5 at the Oregon border dropped over an inch of rain. Snow cover was confined to the peak of Mount Shasta as well as sheltered, high-elevation locations around Lassen National Park. Packs were broken in these areas but may still exceed 4 feet in spots.**

Temperature highs were in the 60s to 80s along the coast, 70s to 90s in the mountains, 90s to 100s in the valley, and 90s to 110s in the desert.

Temperature lows were in the 40s to 50s in the mountains, 50s to 60s along the coast, 60s to 70s in the valley, and 60s to 80s in the desert.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa fields were being irrigated, cut, and baled. **Black-eyed beans** continued to be irrigated and cultivated. **Corn** was being harvested for silage. **Cotton** was blooming and forming bolls, and continued to be irrigated. **Sorghum** for silage continued to be cultivated and irrigated.

FRUIT CROPS

The mid-season **peach**, **nectarine**, and **plum** harvests continued. Harvested stone fruit orchards were pruned and topped. Asian **pears** were harvested. Wine **grape** harvest began, and table grape harvest was in full swing. **Olives** were developing well. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued. Regreening continued to be a problem due to high temperatures. Finger **limes** were being harvested.

NUT CROPS

Almond shaking began in some early varieties. As hull split was under way, almond orchard ground preparation continued for the upcoming harvest. **Walnuts** continued to be irrigated and were sizing well. **Pistachios** continued to be irrigated. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in many orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In San Mateo County, acres of **beans** and **peas** were in full bloom ready to set pods. In Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo Counties, there were reports of 45 to 55 tons of processing **tomatoes** per acre being harvested. In Tulare County, certified producers were picking tomatoes, **cucumbers**, **squash**, and **peppers** for sale at local Farmers Markets. Yellow squash, **zucchini**, **eggplant**, Bell peppers, green chili peppers, and cucumbers continued to be harvested, packed, and shipped domestically. Sweet **corn** harvest continued and was available for sale at roadside stands and local Farmers Markets.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland quality continued to decline. Supplemental feeding increased as the nutritional quality of grasses diminished. Some cattle were moved to high elevation pasture. Sheep grazed on retired pasture and dormant alfalfa. Bees worked melon and sunflower fields.

CCA Sues USFWS Over Critical Habitat Designation for Amphibians

On July 31, CCA sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for violating the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), alleging that USFWS failed to consider the economic impacts of their 2016 decision to designate 1.8 million acres of land in California as critical habitat for the Yosemite toad, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and the Northern distinct population segment of the Mountain yellow-legged frog.

CCA is represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation, and is joined in the suit by the California Farm Bureau Federation and the California Wool Growers Association.

The RFA requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of regulations upon small businesses, small organizations and local governments and to consider alternatives that may lessen economic burdens on those small entities.

The USFWS refuses to conduct RFA analyses when it designates critical habitat for threatened or endangered species, however. The agency claims it is exempt from the Act because designations of critical habitat only regulate other federal agencies, such as the US Forest Service, not small business entities.

The Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, which provides federal agencies guidance on how to comply with the RFA, takes issue with USFWS' position, though, stating that "critical habitat designations have direct effects on small businesses which should be reflected in regulatory flexibility analyses." Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which also designated critical habitat, does comply with RFA requirements, suggesting that USFWS is not, in fact, exempt from the law.

CCA is suing USFWS to ensure that the agency complies with the RFA, and to provide economic relief for ranchers whose family businesses are likely to be impacted by critical habitat designated for the three amphibian species.

For more information, listen to a PLF podcast which includes an interview from CCA's Kirk Wilbur [here](#), or contact Kirk in the CCA office with questions.

Support EPA Proposal to Rescind 2015 WOTUS Rule

On July 27, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) formally released a proposed rule to rescind the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule, which threatened to greatly extend the agencies' regulatory jurisdiction and impose burdensome regulatory requirements upon ranchers and other landowners.

CCA strongly supports the proposal to rescind the 2015 Rule, and will file formal comments to that effect with the EPA prior to the August 28 deadline. Ranchers are encouraged to file comments supporting the 2015 Rule's withdrawal by clicking the "Comment Now!" button [here](#). The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has provided sample comments [here](#).

The move to rescind the 2015 WOTUS Rule comes after President Trump's February 28 Executive Order directing EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to rescind the rule and replace it with a definition of "Waters of the United States" that conforms to the more limited interpretation outlined by late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in *Rapanos v. United States*. Rescinding the 2015 Rule is the first step in that process; once the 2015 Rule is repealed, the EPA will likely give notice of a proposed rulemaking establishing a more limited interpretation of WOTUS.

In the interim, the proposed rulemaking seeks to re-codify the definition of WOTUS that existed prior to the 2015 re-definition. Because the 2015 WOTUS Rule was stayed from implementation and enforcement by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in October 2015 in response to numerous lawsuits (including one filed by CCA), the proposed rule would essentially codify the status quo.

For more information, contact Kirk Wilbur in the CCA office.

Governor Signs State Legislation, Includes Earmark to Repeal SRA Fee

Legislation signed by Governor Edmund "Jerry" Brown on July 26, 2017 will permanently repeal the current State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee, better described as the "fire tax". The tax is currently collected on residential structures and buildings located in the SRA boundary where emergency and first responder services are more commonly provided by the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE). CCA opposed the SRA fee when it was first proposed in a budget trailer bill several years ago. The tax sought to fill a vacuum in funding rather than put new firefighters and firefighting equipment on the ground. The legislation was also originally adopted with a majority vote, not a 2/3 vote, as required by law to enact new taxes.

The legislation calls for the loss of current funding generated by the SRA fee to be backfilled by funds raised by the state's cap-and-trade program. Both the cap-and-

trade program as well as any statutory reference to the SRA fee will be permanently repealed in 2030 without separate legislative action.

Annual Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association Tour, Butte Valley | Aug. 26

The Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association is hosting its annual Fall Tour in Butte Valley on Aug. 16. During the morning, the tour will kick off at Plant Sciences Inc. in Dorris to hear from the owner who is also a cattle rancher in both Northern California and Oregon. Following the tour, there will be presentations and lunch at the Dorris Community Center where Kasey DeAtley, Ph.D. will speak about practical EPD use to get your herd where you want it and Jeff Stott, Ph.D. will provide an update on Foothill abortion and his pink eye research.

For more information, please contact Cari Koopmann Rivers via [email](#).

Yolo County Cattlemen's Association to Host Fall Tour Event | Aug. 24

The Yolo County Cattlemen's Association will be hosting its annual Fall Tour Event on August 24 at the Esparto Fire Hall in Esparto. The program will begin at 5:30 pm and includes speakers and representatives from the California Cattlemen's Association, UC Extension, the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, Yolo County Ag Department, IMI Global and Western Video Market.

Following the program, a tri-tip dinner with Sid Collier's famous beans will be served. To RSVP, contact Yolo County Cattlemen's Association President, Adam Cline, at 530-723-2326 or afcline@hotmail.com.

BQA Training at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center | Sept. 23

The Tahoe County Cattlemen's Association, Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center and the Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba UC Cooperative Extension Services will be hosting a Beef Quality Assurance workshop on Sept. 23 from 8 a.m. -2 p.m. The program will take place at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center and cover a wide variety of topics including BQA, transportation, water quality self assessment and hands-on chute side demonstration.

Check back for a live link to register for this event.

